

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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O R 260910Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4210

INFO AMZNBASSY CAIRO 156

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T SANAA 1756

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, YE, YS, SA, EG, LY

USUBJ: YAR MILITARY SITUATION

REF: SANAA 1745

1. DURING CALL MORNING AUGUST 26, COMMAND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN HAMDI CONFIRMED TO ME THAT DELEGATION MENTIONED REFTEL DEPARTING SAME MORNING FOR JIDDA. LTC ABDALLAH ABD AL-ALIM, CC MEMBER, CO OF PARATROOPS, AND LOYAL HAMDI LIEUTENANT HAS BEEN ADDED TO DELEGATION.

2. HAMDI TOLD ME DELEGATION WOULD DISCUSS WITH SAG NOT ONLY PDRY MILITARY BUILDUP, BUT WOULD MAKE SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE, BASED ON GENERAL ASSURANCES KING FAISAL HAD GIVEN TO HAMDI DURING LATTER'S JULY VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA.

3. HAMDI, IN PRESENCE HIS CC DEPUTY LTC ABU SHAWARIB, REITERATED FORCEFULLY HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS THAT BAENALUMANDEB#WAS PROBLEM THAT SHOULD NOT CONCERN JUST YARG. IT WAS FOCAL POINT OF SOVIET PLAN TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION IN SOUTHERN RED SEA, USING TWO GOVERNMENTS OF SOMALIA AND PDRY AS ITS MEANS. (AS EXAMPLE, VISIT TO MOSCOW BY PDRY SEC GEN ISMA'IL HAD LED TO PROMISES OF LARGE SCALE
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SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE.) MATTER SHOULD THEREFORE BE OF

CONCERN TO SAUDI ARABIA AND TO FRIENDLY WESTERN GOVERNMENTS WHO STAND TO SUFFER MOST FROM EXPANSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE. WHAT YARG NEEDED WAS PROVISION OF MILITARY HELP NOW TO ALLOW IT TO STAND UP TO PDRY, NOT LONG-TERM GENERALIZED PLANS. YARG THEREFORE HAD INSTRUCTED DELEGATION TO DEAL IN SPECIFICS IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH SAG.

4. I REITERATED TO HAMDI OUR DESIRE TO PLAY POSITIVE ROLE AND REMINDED HIM OF PLANNED USG-SAG SECURITY MEETING IN NOVEMBER, IN WHICH I WAS SURE DISCUSSIONS ON YAR NEEDS WOULD FIGURE PROMINENTLY. I THOUGHT SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS NOW WITH SAG WOULD BE VERY USEFUL AND WISHED LTC ABU SHAWARIB SUCCESS ON VISIT.

5. COMMENT. IF FEAR MY DISCUSSIONS WITH HAMDI (AND PRIMIN AYNI) HAVE CERTAIN SAMENESS AS THEY RELATE TO MILITARY MODERNIZATION. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL FROM THIS END IF EMBASSY JIDDA, WHEN AND IF APPROPRIATE, COULD ENCOURAGE SAG TO MAKE SOME SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS. THESE COMMITMENTS COULD, I BELIEVE, BE OF KIND THAT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY PREJUDGE OUTCOME OF SUBSEQUENT USG-SAG TALKS.
NEWTON

NOTE BY OC/T: SANAA 1756 - (#) AS RECEIVED,

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